



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Green River District Office

Vernal Field Office

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<http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/vernal.html>

BLM-UT-924
2009 JUL -7 AM 9:19

IN REPLY REFER TO:

3100

LLUTG01100

June 24, 2009

Memorandum

To: State Director, UT-924
Attention: Teresa Thompson, Terry Catlin

From: Field Manager, Vernal Field Office *William H. Hargis*

Subject: August 2009 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale Parcel Recommendations

The Vernal Field Office (VFO) has four (4) parcels on the preliminary list for the August 2009 oil and gas lease sale. All parcels are recommended to go forward.

The following recommendation for all parcels to go forward is provided to the BLM Utah State Director of parcels is provided to the BLM Utah State Director.

The attached Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA) Worksheet was prepared to determine if the existing NEPA analysis is adequate for the leasing of oil and gas parcels within the administrative boundaries of the VFO for the August 2009 competitive oil and gas lease sale. An Interdisciplinary Team review is included as Attachment 2 of the DNA. The recommended parcels and attached stipulations and lease notices are found in Attachment 1 of the DNA. The following four parcels being considered for the August 2009 sale have been determined to be in conformance with existing Land Use Plans, and are recommended to go forward in the lease sale. The VFO DNA addresses all four parcels offered for sale.

Parcels Recommended For Sale

UT0809-072

UT0509-095a

UT0509-097a

UT0509-139

Stipulations and notices were attached to the parcels which were not included on the preliminary offer list submitted by USO on 2/9/09. The recommended parcels and attached stipulations are found in Attachment 1 of the DNA. In accordance with WOIM 2002-174 the following Endangered Species Act section 7 consultation stipulation is to be added to all recommended lease parcels.

“The lease area may now or hereafter contain plants, animals or their habitats determined to be threatened, endangered, or other special status species. BLM may recommend modifications to exploration and development proposals to further its conservation and management objective to avoid BLM-approved activity that would contribute to a need to list such species or their habitat. BLM may require modifications to or disapprove proposed activity that is likely to result in jeopardy to the continued existence of a proposed or listed threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of a designated or proposed critical habitat. BLM will not approve any ground-disturbing activity until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the Endangered Species Act as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq. including completion of any required procedure for conference or consultation.”

In accordance with WOIM 2005-003 Cultural Resources and Tribal Consultation for Fluid Minerals Leasing, the cultural stipulation which states the following has been added to all offered lease parcels:

“This lease may be found to contain historic properties and/or resources protected under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, E.O. 13007, or other statutes and executive orders. The BLM will not approve any ground disturbing activities that may affect any such properties or resources until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the NHPA and other authorities. The BLM may require modification to exploration or development proposals to protect such properties, or disapprove any activity that is likely to result in adverse effects that cannot be successfully avoided, minimized or mitigated.”

Please contact Holly Villa (435)-781-4404 if you have any questions.

Attachment DNA

Worksheet
Determination of NEPA Adequacy
U.S. Department of the Interior
Utah Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

The signed CONCLUSION at the end of this worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal analysis process and does not constitute an appealable decision; however, it constitutes an administrative record to be provided as evidence in protest, appeals and legal procedures.

Office: Vernal Field Office (LLUTG01000)

Tracking #: DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2009-0411-DNA

Proposed Action Title: August 2009 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale

Location/Legal Description: Parcels within Uintah County, Utah. Attachment 1 contains legal descriptions for each parcel.

Applicant (if any): Not Applicable

A. Description of the Proposed Action and Any Applicable Mitigation Measures: The Utah State Office proposes to offer four parcels of land in Uintah County, Utah administered by the Vernal Field Office for oil and gas leasing in a competitive lease sale to be held in August 2009. All four parcels were assessed for land use plan compliance and NEPA adequacy; all parcels are recommended to go forward (Attachment 2). All parcels were processed for the August 2009 lease sale and it was recommended that all parcels proceed to the lease sale. Attachment 1 lists all parcels including special lease stipulations and lease notices. These parcels include public lands or lands in which the mineral estate is administered by the BLM.

If a parcel of land is not purchased at the lease sale by competitive bidding, it may still be leased within two years after the initial offering. A lease may be held for ten years, after which the lease expires unless oil or gas is produced in paying quantities. A producing lease can be held indefinitely by economic production.

A lessee must submit an Application for Permit to Drill (APD) (Form 3160-3) to the BLM for approval and must possess an approved APD prior to any surface disturbance in preparation for drilling. Any stipulations attached to the standard lease form must be complied with before an APD may be approved. Following BLM approval of an APD, a lessee may produce oil and gas from the well in a manner approved by BLM in the APD or in subsequent sundry notices. The operator must notify the appropriate authorized officer, 48 hours before starting any surface disturbing activity approved in the APD.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name:

Vernal Resource Management Plan Record of Decision (VRMP/ROD), approved October 31, 2008
(revised version)

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

- The ROD for the VRMP/FEIS decisions MIN 6 – MIN 14 (pages 98-99) identifies those specific lands within the Vernal Field Office that are available for leasing as illustrated on its corresponding Oil and Gas Leasing map (Figure 8a). Within the ROD, Appendices K (Surface Stipulations to all Surface Disturbing Activities), L (Utah's T&E and Special Status Species Lease Notices for Oil and Gas and BLM Committed Measures) and R (Fluid Mineral Best Management Practices) of the FEIS contain pertinent stipulations, lease notices and committed measures.

It is also consistent with RMP decisions and their corresponding goals and objectives related to the management of air quality, cultural resources, recreation, riparian, soils, water, vegetation, fish & wildlife and ACEC.

C. Identify the applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

- Final Vernal Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement UT-GI-04-001-1610, 2008.

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g. biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

- State of Utah Sensitive Species List (2007)
- RMP USFWS Biological Opinion (2008)
- RMP BLM Biological Assessment (2008)
- RMP SHPO Concurrence Letter (2008)
- Lease Sale SHPO Concurrence Letter (2009)
- Lease Sale Cultural Staff Report (2009)

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA documents(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Yes
 No

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The proposed action is a feature of the VRMP/ROD. Leasing of the lands described in Attachment 1 was analyzed in the Final VRMP. The proposed action - leasing for oil and gas in the August 2009 sale - is substantially the same as the proposed action analyzed in the above land use plan. Public land would be offered for leasing, as allowed for in the VRMP/ROD, and exploration and development for oil and gas resources may occur dependent on specific approval by the BLM and dependent on site-specific NEPA analysis. If land is leased, a lessee would be afforded rights to explore for and to develop oil and gas, subject to the lease terms, regulations, and laws.

The VRMP/EIS in Chapter 3 describes the affected environment. Chapter 4 describes the impacts of the proposed action and other alternatives. The ROD for the VRMP/EIS, on page(s) 96-99, identifies those specific lands within the Management Area that are available for leasing. Appendix K contains pertinent stipulations. Applicable best management practices for raptors and fluid minerals are also contained in appendices A and R (respectively) and lease notices detailed in Appendix L of the ROD would be applied, as required for these lease parcels. These are specifically identified by parcel in Attachment 1.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action (or existing proposed action), given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes
 No

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The VRMP/EIS analyzed the impacts of oil and gas leasing on all lands in the resource area under five different alternatives. The five alternatives ranged from emphasizing oil and gas exploration and development to minimizing oil and gas exploration and development with varying degrees of exploration and development activities and varying stipulations (restrictions) for each alternative. The alternatives analyzed, and the range of alternatives, covered the entire range of leasing possibilities. That range is still appropriate for this action given

current concerns, interests, and values. In addition, alternatives were not identified by the interdisciplinary team or brought forward by the public.

3. Is existing analysis adequate in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standards assessment; recent endangered species listings, updated list of BLM sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Yes

No

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Existing analysis is adequate. New information would not change the analysis as documented below. All resources are adequately protected through leasing category and applicable stipulations and notices.

The VFO received the draft August 2009 competitive oil and gas lease sale parcel list on May 7, 2009. Copies of the complete list were provided to the interdisciplinary team on May 14, 2009 for review. On May 26, 2009, the ID team of resource specialists, identified in Part E of this DNA, met to discuss the preliminary lease parcels. As part of the review process, the VRMP/ROD was reviewed for applicable leasing categories, stipulations, and resource impact from oil and gas leasing. The parcels were reviewed individually by specialists for potential impacts to wildlife, plants, cultural, and watershed. Lease stipulations were added as a result of those reviews in accordance with the VRMP/ROD.

Individual members of the ID team reached conclusions regarding the adequacy of existing NEPA documentation. The BLM VFO management then conducted an additional multiple-use review in light of the parcel specific reviews, existing oil and gas lease categories, all required stipulations and relevance of information found in the Final Vernal RMP. The results of these reviews for the parcels recommended for sale in the August 2009 lease sale are presented below. Resource information, none of which is substantial, is described below.

Cultural Resources: Based on the information provided in the Cultural Staff Report (June 2009), the known and potential sites in the APE of the parcels proposed for leasing will not be adversely affected by adherence to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended and other applicable laws and regulations including Onshore Order #1. A "No Adverse Effect" determination is recommended. This determination is based upon the physical descriptions of the parcels and a Class I survey. Avoidance is practiced by the VFO where possible, otherwise mitigation is implemented through Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended. Traditional Cultural Properties are always avoided and a protective buffer is implemented for a 0.5 mile radius. A "No Adverse Effect" determination was forwarded to the SHPO on May 15, 2009. The SHPO has concurred with this determination on June 1, 2009. This correspondence is part of the administrative record.

To assure appropriate consideration of future effects from the August 2009 lease sale, the BLM will add the following "lease stipulation" (WO-IM-2005-003), to all parcels offered for lease.

"This lease may be found to contain historic properties and/or resources protected under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, E.O. 13007, or other statutes and executive orders. The BLM will not approve any ground disturbing activities that may affect any such properties or resources until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the NHPA and other authorities. The BLM may require modification to exploration, or development proposals to protect such properties, or disapprove any activity that is likely to result in adverse effects that cannot be successfully avoided, minimized or mitigated." (WO-IM 2005-03).

Invasive, Non-native Species: Weeds are present in the parcels. The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient to disclose impacts to weeds. Surface disturbance activities will require a plan and pesticide use permit. No stipulations or lease notices apply.

Native American Religious Concern: Consultation letters (dated May 14, 2009) were sent to the following Tribes: Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Goshute Indian Tribe, White Mesa Ute Tribe, Laguna Pueblo Tribe, Southern Ute Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe, Santa Clara Pueblo Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Zia Pueblo Tribe, Navajo Nation, Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Tribe, and the Eastern Shoshone Tribe. The letter requested comments be provided to the VFO within 30 days after receipt of the letter. The last return receipt received was dated May 28, 2009. As of June 1, 2009 no concerns pertaining to leasing of the preliminary parcels have been received. If any concerns are raised by the tribes, those concerns will be addressed. Consultation will be considered complete if tribal response presents no objections or if response is not received seven (7) days prior to the date of the proposed sale. Additional consultation will be conducted should site-specific use authorization requests for a lease be received. This correspondence is part of the administrative record.

Wildlife: Detailed information on the inclusion of the appropriate lease notices and stipulations are contained in Attachments 1 (Parcel List) and 2 (ID Team Checklist). Wildlife habitat and criteria were identified for raptors, crucial mule deer winter range, crucial mule deer fawning range, crucial elk winter range, mountain plover, white-tailed prairie dogs, and Colorado endangered fish. UDWR Heritage data were utilized to determine presence and absence of species in addition to field office records. All of these habitats are addressed in the RMP and provided certain protections through stipulations or notices.

Special Status Species- In accordance with Washington Office Instruction Memorandum No. 2002-174, all parcels would be subject to the Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation Stipulation. This stipulation is as follows:

"The lease area may now or hereafter contain plants, animals or their habitats determined to be threatened, endangered, or other special status species. BLM may recommend modifications to exploration and development proposals to further its conservation and management objective to avoid BLM-approved activity that would contribute to a need to list such species or their habitat. BLM may require modifications to or disapprove proposed activity that is likely to result in jeopardy to the continued existence of a proposed or listed threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of a designated or proposed critical habitat. BLM will not approve any ground-disturbing activity until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the Endangered Species Act as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq. including completion of any required procedure for conference or consultation."

The BLM consulted with the USFWS, concerning the Vernal PRMP, as required, prior to initiation of any project by a federal agency that may affect federally listed special status species or their habitat in accordance with Section 7 of the ESA and with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 USC Sec 661 et seq. The RMP/EIS is considered a major planning action, and the BLM initiated formal consultation with the USFWS on August 22, 2008. The VRMP formed the basis for a Biological Assessment (BA). The BLM determined that the implementation of the PRMP/FEIS "may affect" but is "not likely to adversely affect" the species on which this consultation occurred. The USFWS concurred with the BLM's determination via a Biological Opinion (BO) on October 23, 2008, which advises the BLM on the actions that must be taken to protect federally listed special status species. A copy of the USFWS Biological Opinion can be found in Appendix N of the ROD. Included in these actions are the programmatic level lease notices for federally listed species occurring in Utah, that are required to be attached to all of the appropriate oil and gas leases offered in the State of Utah.

Based on the information provided in Attachment 2, and inclusion of all appropriate lease notices and stipulations, the August 2009 sale of oil and gas lease parcels complies with the VRMP consultation, so that no listed species are likely to be adversely affected by the proposed action.

Floodplains: Lease Notice UTSO-S-53 (Riparian, Floodplains, and Public Water Reserves) which identifies the need to comply with the Floodplain Executive Order No 11988 would be added to the appropriate parcels as identified in Attachments 1 and 2. The added lease notices (Attachments 1 & 2) would provide adequate protection for the resource. The information was addressed in the RMP and therefore was taken into account in the referenced NEPA document.

Soils: Lease Notice UTSO-S-29 and UTSO-S-62 (Fragile Soils/Slopes) that identifies if there may be steep slopes or sensitive soils in the area would be added to the appropriate parcels as identified in Attachments 1 and 2.

The information was addressed in the RMP and therefore was taken into account in the referenced NEPA document.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes
 No

Documentation and explanation:

The direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of leasing and drilling are identical to those analyzed in the VRMP/FEIS. This is because the proposed action is essentially the same and the existing resource conditions and values have not changed since analyzed in the EIS. The EIS used a general analysis of impacts, but these were tied to specific resources and values present in the specific areas. Leasing categories were established dependent on resources and values in particular areas and stipulations were designed for each of these categories to protect these resources and values. The RFD further defined expected impacts to specific exploration and production regions. These analyses are therefore region specific and allow region specific location and identification of potential impacts of the current leasing proposal.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes
 No

Documentation and explanation:

The public involvement and interagency review procedures and findings made through the development of the the Vernal RMP/EIS are adequate for the proposed lease sale. During the development of the documents listed above, public workshops and meetings and public comments were received. All comments were taken into account in the finalized documents.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, United States Forest Service, State of Utah and State Institutional Trust Lands Administration were notified of the proposed action via letter (dated 5/7/2009) regarding the August 2009 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale and were provided a copy of the Preliminary List of Parcels (68 parcels and 99,606.39 acres). This correspondence is part of the administrative record.

Public outreach and notification for this lease sale also occurred by posting the action on 5/7/2009 on the BLM's Environmental Notification Bulletin Board (<https://www.blm.gov/ut/enbb/index.php>) and Utah Oil and Gas web page (http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/energy/oil_and_gas/oil_and_gas_lease.html). Notices were also placed in the Field Office and Utah State Office public rooms.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted:

Name	Title	Resource Represented
Jason West	Outdoor Recreation Planner	ACECs, BLM natural areas, recreation, VRM, wild and scenic rivers, and wilderness
Stephanie Howard	Environmental Coordinator	Environmental Justice, Air Quality, Farmlands, Lands/Access, Socio-economics, and Wastes
Holly Villa	Natural Resource Specialist	Team Lead, Waters of the U.S., Floodplains, Wetlands, Riparian, soils
Brandon McDonald	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Animal Species, Wildlife
Betty Gamber	Geologist	Paleontology Review
Gabrielle Elliott	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns
Clayton Newberry	Botanist	Special Status Plant Species, Invasive, Non-native Plant

		Species
Michael Cutler	Natural Resource Specialist	Range

Refer also the List of Preparers identified in the Approved RMP and ROD at page 199.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that:

Plan Conformance:

- This proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan.
- This proposal does not conform to the applicable land use plan

Determination of NEPA Adequacy

- The existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.
- The existing NEPA documentation does not fully cover the proposed action. Additional NEPA documentation is needed if the project is to be further considered.

Holly Viller

 Signature of Project Lead

6/24/09

 Date

Stephanie J. Howard

 Signature of NEPA Coordinator

6/24/09

 Date

[Signature]

 Signature of the Responsible Official

6/24/2009

 Date

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

Attachments

- Attachment 1, Parcel List
- Attachment 2, Interdisciplinary Team Checklist

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS RECORD CHECKLIST

Project Title: August 2009 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale (Vernal Field Office)

NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-G010-2009-0411-DNA

File/Serial Number: NA

Project Lead: Holly Villa

DETERMINATION OF STAFF: (Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for significant impact analyzed in detail in the EA; or identified in a DNA as requiring further analysis

NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form.

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NC	Air Quality	The act of leasing the proposed parcels will not result in any impacts to air quality. The RMP included an air quality model to determine the impact of exploration activities in the Uinta Basin on air quality. No exceedances of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards were modeled for exploration activities. Should the leases be issued and development be proposed, the impact of development on air quality would be revisited on a site specific basis. Standard stipulation (UTSO-S-01) will apply to all parcels.	Stephanie Howard	5/19/2009
NC	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient. Two parcels 095A and 097A are located in the Pariette ACEC. Management decisions in the Vernal RMP/ROD has identified the ACEC as being managed under NSO prescriptions for oil and gas leasing to protect the relevance and importance values of the ACEC. Parcel 072 is located within the Myton Bench Potential ACEC that was not designated as an ACEC in the Vernal RMP/ROD. Management decisions in the RMP/ROD provides direction to provide protective measures for relevance and importance values in potential ACECs not designated in the final RMP. Controlled Surface Use stipulation would be applied to this parcel.	Jason West	5/19/2009
NC	BLM natural areas	There are no BLM Natural Areas present where the August lease sale proposed parcels are located. The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient. BLM natural areas were previously considered areas with wilderness characteristics.	Jason West	5/19/2009
NC	Cultural Resources	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient. Based on a Class I review (6/2009) there are no recorded cultural sites in these four parcels.	Gabrielle Elliott	5/19/09
NC	Environmental Justice	No minority or economically disadvantaged communities would be disproportionately affected by the proposed leasing.	Stephanie Howard	5/19/2009
NC	Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient. No additional impacts are anticipated. No stipulations or lease notices will apply.	Stephanie Howard	5/19/2009
NC	Floodplains	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient to disclose impacts to floodplains. Parcels 72, 95a, and 139 involve floodplains. Stipulation UTSO-S-53 will apply to those parcels.	Holly Villa	5/20/09
NC	Fuels / Fire Management	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient. No additional impacts are anticipated. No stipulations or lease notices will apply.	Steve Strong	5/21/09

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NC	Geology / Mineral Resources / Energy Production	<p>Natural gas, oil, gilsonite, oil shale, and tar sand are the only mineral resources that could be impacted. Production of natural gas or oil would deplete reserves, but the Vernal RMP allows for the recovery of natural gas and oil in the project area.</p> <p>Compliance with "Onshore Oil and Gas Order No. 2, Drilling Operations" will assure that the project will not adversely affect gilsonite, oil shale, or tar sand deposits. Due to the state-of-the-art drilling and wells completion techniques, the possibility of adverse degradation of tar sand or oil shale deposits by the proposed action will be negligible.</p> <p>Wells completion must be accomplished in compliance with "Onshore Oil and Gas Order No. 2, Drilling Operations". These guidelines specify the following... <i>proposed casing and cementing programs shall be conducted as approved to protect and/or isolate all usable water zones, potentially productive zones, lost circulation zones, abnormally pressured zones, and any prospectively valuable deposits of minerals. Any isolating medium other than cement shall receive approval prior to use.</i></p> <p>The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient for this leasing project.</p>	Betty Gamber	5/19/09
NC	Invasive Plants / Noxious Weeds	<p>The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient for this leasing project. New surface disturbances create habitat for rapid weed colonization and establishment. Weed plan and PUP will be required at the APD stage as warranted.</p>	Clayton Newberry	05/20/2009
NC	Lands / Access	<p>The proposed area is located within the Vernal Resource Management Plan area, which allows for multiple use of resources, see pg. 86 of VFOROD. Current land uses, within the area identified in the proposed action and adjacent lands, consist of existing oil and gas development, wildlife habitat, recreational use, and sheep and cattle ranching.</p>	Cindy McKee	5-28-09
NC	Livestock Grazing	<p>The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient for this leasing. These parcels are within the following allotments: Castle Peak, Asphalt Draw, Olsen AMP, Eight Mile Flat, and Wetlands. These parcels are in areas that have received and are planned for oil and gas development.</p>	Michael Cutler	5/18/09
NC	Native American Religious Concerns	<p>The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient for this leasing project. No known concerns.</p>	Gabrielle Elliott	5/19/09
NC	Paleontology	<p>The Uinta Formation is at the surface in all sections listed except in T12S R24E Sec 31 which has Green River at the surface. The Uinta Formation has a high potential for significant fossils. The Green River would have a medium to low potential.</p> <p>The Vernal RMP allows for the collection of site-specific paleontological data prior to any surface disturbing activities. A paleontological resources lease notice would be required for all parcels. The analysis in the Vernal MRP is sufficient for this leasing project. Parcels 95a and 97a have a high potential for Paleontological resources. A lease notice will be added to the appropriate parcels.</p>	Betty Gamber Holly Villa	5/18/09 6/1/09
NC	Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines	<p>Olsen AMP and Asphalt Wash allotments are scheduled for Rangeland Health Assessments in 2010. The other allotments have had health assessments conducted and were meeting Utah Standards and Guidelines at the time. Leasing will not affect BLMs ability to meet the indicators of Rangeland Health. Standard operating procedures and best management practices are addressed at the APD stage which would be incorporated into conditions of approval and reclamation plans.</p>	Michael Cutler	5/18/09

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NC	Recreation	Several Designated motorized routes (Vernal RMP 2008) exist in the proposed locations. Parcels 072, 095A and 097A have designated motorized routes that provide direct access to the parcels. Parcel 139 is bisected by several routes. The proposed action would result in both public access and exploratory uses to continue along these routes. Typical development does not close or alter routes, and should not have any impacts to travel within the area.	Jason West Holly Villa	5/19/2008 6/24/09
NC	Socio-economics	The Vernal RMP considered the impact of oil and gas leasing and development on Uinta Basin communities. The proposed leasing of the subject parcels falls within the scope of what was analyzed. No stipulations apply.	Stephanie Howard	5/19/2009
NC	Soils	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient to disclose impacts. No conflicts are anticipated. Stipulations (UTSO-S-29 and UTSO-S-62) will apply to parcels 95a, 97a, and 139 due to slope and soil type as per the RMP.	Holly Villa	5/20/09
NC	Wildlife including Special Status Animal Species other than USFWS candidate or listed species e.g. Migratory birds.	<p>The RMP is sufficient, so long as applicable notices and stipulations are carried forward onto the lease.</p> <p>UT0809-072</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains white-tailed prairie dog habitat within the Coyote Basin Myton Bench area. • There are two documented raptor nests within 0.5 miles of the proposed parcel. • Contains Mountain plover nesting habitat. <p>UT0809-095a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains Critical T&E Fish Habitat. • Contains Crucial Year-long Fawning Habitat for Deer. <p>UT0809-097a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the Pariette Wetlands Bird Habitat Conservation Area (BHCA). <p>UT0809-139</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains Crucial Deer and Elk Winter Range. • There are two documented raptor nests within 0.5 miles of the proposed parcel. 	Brandon McDonald	05/20/2009
NC	Special Status Plant Species other than USFWS candidate or listed species	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient to disclose impacts. None present according to GIS layer and staff familiarity with species and their habitat preferences. BarnebyAnalys catseye and Dragon milkvetch, both former FWS category 2 species, are reported to grow in UT0809-139.	Clayton Newberry	05/20/2009
NC	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species	<p>The RMP is sufficient, so long as applicable notices and stipulations are carried forward onto the lease.</p> <p>UT0809-072</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A small portion of the parcel contains a mapped 100 year floodplain. A lease notice for T&E fish is not necessary given the drainage in the parcel is ephemeral and is at the head of the mapped floodplain. In addition, the proposed parcel is approximately 10 miles from a main tributary (Pariette Draw) of the Green River. Within Sage grouse brooding habitat. <p>UT0809-095a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains Critical T&E Fish Habitat. <p>UT0809-139</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A small portion of the parcel contains a mapped 100 year floodplain. A lease notice for T&E fish is not necessary given the ephemeral drainage is on the outer edge of the section line and that the parcel is approximately 9 miles from a main tributary (Asphalt Wash) of the White River. 	Brandon McDonald Holly Villa	05/20/2009 6/24/09

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NC	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species	The RMP is sufficient, so long as applicable notices and stipulations are carried forward onto the lease. UT0809-095a <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occupied habitat for threatened Pariette cactus, Uinta Basin hookless cactus, and/or their putative hybrids. UT0809-097 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occupied habitat for threatened Pariette cactus, Uinta Basin hookless cactus, and/or their putative hybrids. 	Clayton Newberry	05/20/2009
NC	Vegetation	The analysis within the Vernal RMP is sufficient. Mostly common species associated with salt desert shrub.	Clayton Newberry	05/20/2009
NC	Visual Resources	The analysis within the Vernal RMP is sufficient. The nominated parcels are located in areas identified with Visual Resources are at class III and IV classifications. Management decisions in the RMP provide for NSO and Controlled Surface Use stipulations due to the presence of other resources which will indirectly provide mitigation to meet VRM classification requirements on parcels 095A, 097A and 139 which are in VRM Class III. Parcel 072 is within VRM Class IV and does not require mitigative stipulations to manage for visual resources.	Jason West	5/19/2009
NC	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient. No hazardous or solid waste sites are known to be present. No hazardous or solid was sites are anticipated to occur as a result of leasing. No stipulations or lease notices apply.	Stephanie Howard	5/19/2009
NC	Waters of the U.S.	The analysis of the Vernal RMP is sufficient. No unusual impacts are anticipated. GIS was reviewed for 100-year floodplains and a No Surface Occupancy stipulation was added to the appropriate leases. Specific cases will be looked at in more detail when an application is sent in.	Holly Villa	5/20/09
NC	Water Quality (surface / ground)	The analysis of the Vernal RMP is sufficient. According to GIS review, there are no public water reserves within the proposed parcels. A stipulation of No Surface Occupancy has been added to the appropriate areas based on GIS review of 100-year floodplains. Adherence to Onshore Order No.2 "Drilling Operations" will ensure that the project will not adversely affect groundwater. The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient for this project.	Holly Villa Betty Gamber	5/20/09 5/18/09
NC	Wetlands / Riparian Zones	The analysis of the Vernal RMP is sufficient. A stipulation of No Surface Occupancy has been added to the appropriate areas based on GIS review of riparian areas.	Holly Villa	5/20/09
NC	Wild and Scenic Rivers	The analysis within the Vernal RMP is sufficient. No wild and scenic rivers segments were analyzed previously because no suitable rivers are within the proposed locations.	Jason West	5/19/2009
NC	Wild Horses and Burros	The parcels offered for lease at this time do not fall within the boundaries of the current HAs managed by the Vernal Field Office. Therefore, there are no known resource concerns. The analysis in the RMP is sufficient.	Dusty Carpenter Holly Villa	5/26/2009
NC	Wilderness	The analysis of the Vernal RMP is sufficient. No Wilderness existed within the Vernal Field office at the time of the document, and there are no Wilderness Study Areas present within the proposed parcels.	Jason West	5/19/2009
NC	Woodland / Forestry	UT0809-139 is the only parcel with forest or woodlands present, the analysis within the Vernal RMP is sufficient.	David Palmer	5/26/2009

FINAL REVIEW:

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator	<i>Stephanie J. Howard</i>	6/24/09	
Authorized Officer	<i>[Signature]</i>	6/24/09	

AUGUST 2009 PRELIMINARY OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE LIST

UT0809-072

T. 9 S., R. 17 E., Salt Lake
Sec. 25: NE, E2NW.

320.00 Acres
Uintah County, Utah
Vernal Field Office

UTSO-S-01 Air Quality
UTSO-S-53 Riparian, Floodplains, and Public Water Reserves E2NE Sec.25.
UTSO-S-71 Conditional Surface Use-White-Tailed Prairie Dog N2SE Sec.25.
UTSO-S-96 Timing Limitation-Sage Grouse
UT-LN-07 Special Status Species: Raptors
UT-LN-16 Mountain Plover Habitat entire parcel.

UT0809-095a

(UT0309-095)

T. 8 S., R. 18 E., Salt Lake
Sec. 27: SWSE.

40.00 Acres
Uintah County, Utah
Vernal Field Office

UTSO-S-01 Air Quality
UTSO-S-28 Pariette ACEC-No Surface Occupancy
UTSO-S-29 Fragile Soils/Slopes: No Surface Occupancy for slopes greater than 40%
UTSO-S-53 Riparian, Floodplains, and Public Water Reserves
UTSO-S-62 Fragile Soils/Slopes
UTSO-S-105 Wildlife: Crucial Deer Fawning Habitat entire parcel.
UT-LN-07 Special Status Species: Raptors
UT-LN-21 High Potential for Paleontological Resources
T&E-03-LN Endangered Fish of the Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin on the entire parcel.
T&E-11-LN Federally Threatened Pariette cactus and Uinta Basin Hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus brevispinus* and *S.wetlandicus*).

UT0809-097a

(UT0309-097)

T. 8 S., R. 19 E., Salt Lake
Sec. 31: Lots 1, 2, 4, SWSE.

168.81 Acres
Uintah County, Utah
Vernal Field Office

UTSO-S-01 Air Quality
UTSO-S-28 Pariette ACEC-No Surface Occupancy
UTSO-S-29 Fragile Soils/Slopes: No Surface Occupancy for slopes greater than 40% Lot 1 and 2
Sec.31
UTSO-S-62 Fragile Soils/Slopes
UT-LN-07 Special Status Species: Raptors
UT-LN-21 High Potential for Paleontological Resources
UT-LN-90 Migratory Birds
T&E-11-LN Federally Threatened Pariette cactus and Uinta Basin Hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus*

AUGUST 2009 PRELIMINARY OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE LIST

brevispinus and S.wetlandicus).

UT0809-139

T. 12 S., R. 24 E., Salt Lake

Sec. 10: N2N2;

Secs. 19, 30 and 31: All.

2,036.52 Acres

Uintah County, Utah

Vernal Field Office

UTSO-S-01 Air Quality
UTSO-S-29 Fragile Soils/Slopes: No Surface Occupancy for slopes greater than 40%
UTSO-S-53 Riparian, Floodplains, and Public Water Reserves NENE Sec.10
UTSO-S-62 Fragile Soils/Slopes
UTSO-S-103 Wildlife: Crucial Elk Winter Range
UTSO-S-106 Wildlife: Crucial Deer Winter Range (CSU)
UTSO-S-107 Wildlife: Crucial Deer Winter Range (TL)
UT-LN-07 Special Status Species: Raptors